

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 072510

R 211630Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7098

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2354

ABIDJAN FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TO, GH

SUBJ: TOGO-GHANA BORDER INCIDENT: TOGOLESE BORDER GUARD REPORTED
KILLED

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORT FROM RELIABLE TOGOLESE SOURCE IN OFFICE OF ARMY GENERAL STAFF THAT SERIOUS INCIDENT, RESULTING IN MURDER OF TOGOLESE BORDER GUARD BY GHANAIS, OCCURRED AT TOGO-GHANA BORDER WEST OF SOKODE ON NIGHT OF DECEMBER 14. SOURCE STATES THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA, ON RECEIVING REPORT OF INCIDENT, PUT TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES IN LOME AND LAMA KARA ON ALERT AND DESPATCHED 120 ARMED SOLDIERS TO SITE OF INCIDENT FROM LOME. ACCORDING TO REPORT, EYADEMA ALSO DESPATCHED PERSONAL ENVOY TO COL. ACHEAMPONG, CHAIRMAN OF GHANA'S NRC, TO MAKE STRONG PROTEST. ACHEAMPONG CONDEMNED AND REGRETTED INCIDENT. ALERT WAS CALLED OFF ON DECEMBER 18.

2. INCIDENT APPARENTLY BEGAN WITH ATTEMPT BY GHANAIAN SMUGGLER TO EVADE TOGOLESE BORDER GUARD, WHO PURSUED HIM; SMUGGLER DOUBLED BACK INTO GHANA AND GUARD, IN HOT PURSUIT, FOLLOWED HIM ACROSS FRONTIER. TOGOLESE GUARD WAS THEN OVERPOWERED BY GHANAIAN BORDER GUARDS AND ARRESTED FOR HAVING ILLEGALLY PURSUED FUGITIVE INTO
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GHANA. HE WAS TIED UP AND SUBSEQUENTLY BEATEN TO DEATH. REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE RANK OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE.

3. MILITARY FORCE SENT TO SCENE WAS REPORTEDLY UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN JEROME BALOUKI. EMBASSY FILES SHOW BALOUKI AS COMMANDER OF SECOND MOTORIZED BATTALION, FIRST COMBINED REGIMENT, WHICH IS BASED AT CAMP MILITAIRE, LOME.

4. SENIOR EMBASSY LOCAL ADVISES THAT WIDESPREAD SMUGGLING OF CONSUMER GOODS -- SPECIFICALLY, FLOUR, RICE, SUGAR, CANNED FOOD (MEAT, FISH, MILK) INTO TOGO FROM GHANA HAS CAUSED GOT TO TIGHTEN BORDER CONTROLS. THERE IS NO RPT NO SHORTAGE OF ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS IN TOGO, BUT GHANAIAAN NOTES SELL AT SUCH A DISCOUNT IN TOGO (CEDIS AVAILABLE ON STREET AT 117.50 CFA/ONE CEDI) THAT IT PAYS TO SMUGGLE CEDIS BACK INTO GHANA, PURCHASE CONSUMER GOODS AND SMUGGLE THEM INTO TOGO. THIS PRESUMABLY WAS TYPE OF OPERATION WHICH ILL-FATED TOGOLESE BORDER GUARD WAS ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT.

5. COMMENT: INCIDENT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN TOGOLESE MEDIA AND IS BEING CLOSELY HELD IN GOT CIRCLES, REFLECTING EYADEMA'S CONCERN THAT PRESENT APPARENTLY CORDIAL STATE OF RELATIONS WITH ACHEAMPONG AND GHANA NOT RPT NOT BE DISTURBED. NEVERTHELESS, RAPIDITY OF TROOP MOVEMENT AND CALLING OF MAJOR MILITARY ALERT INDICATES GRAVITY WITH WHICH SITUATION WAS VIEWED BY EYADEMA.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TO, GH
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